

**Listing of Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-34 (cancelled).

Claim 35 (withdrawn): The screening method according to claim 33, wherein said method comprises one or more of the following steps:

- (i) forming a preparation comprising a candidate agent to be tested and a polypeptide molecule encoded by a nucleic acid molecule selected from the group consisting of:
  - a) a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleic acid sequence represented in any of SEQ ID NO: 45, 46, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72 or 73; and
  - b) a nucleic acid molecule which has a nucleic acid sequence which is degenerate because of the genetic code to the sequences in a) and encodes a polypeptide with DNA initiation activity; and
- (ii) detecting or measuring the effect of the agent on the activity of said polypeptide.

Claims 36-50 (cancelled).

Claim 51 (previously presented): A diagnostic method for the identification of a cancer comprising detecting the presence or expression of the Ciz 1 gene, Ciz1 splice variants and or mutations in the genomic sequence thereof, wherein the presence or expression of the Ciz 1 gene, Ciz1 splice variants or mutations in the genomic sequence thereof is indicative of the presence of cancer.

Claim 52 (currently amended): The diagnostic method according to claim 51 wherein said method comprises one or more of the following steps:

- (i) contacting a sample isolated from a subject to be tested with an agent which specifically binds a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleic acid sequence as

represented by SEQ ID NO: 45, 46, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72 or 73 and encoding a polypeptide with DNA initiation activity[[;]], and

- (ii) detecting or measuring the binding of the agent on said nucleic acid molecule in said sample;
- (iii) (ii) measuring expression levels of Ciz1 and Ciz1 isoform using reverse-transcribed PCR or real-time PCR;
- (iv) (iii) measuring the presence of nucleic acid mutations based on altered conformational properties of the Ciz1 molecule; and
- (v) (iv) sequence determination.

Claims 53-64 (cancelled).

Claim 65 (previously presented): A kit comprising nucleotide primers selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 17-25 which bind to Ciz 1 alternate splice variants.

Claim 66 (withdrawn): The method according to claim 35 wherein said screening method is a cell-based screening method.

Claim 67 (withdrawn): The method according to claim 66 wherein the cell naturally expresses the Ciz1 polypeptide.

Claim 68 (withdrawn): The method according to claim 66 wherein the cell is transfected with a nucleic acid molecule encoding Ciz 1 or a fragment or splice variant thereof.

Claim 69 (previously presented): The method according to claim 52 wherein the cancer is a pediatric cancer selected from the group consisting of: retinoblastoma, neuroblastoma, Burkett lymphoma, medulloblastoma, and Ewings Sarcoma family tumors.

Claim 70 (previously presented): The method according to claim 52 wherein the cancer is carcinoma, adenocarcinoma, lymphoma or leukemia.

Claim 71 (previously presented): The method according to claim 52 wherein the cancer is liver, lung or skin cancer.